

REACHING OUT FOR CHRIST

PROBLEM - PHYSICAL NEEDS
THE BURDEN OF SICKNESS
THE WOMAN WITH AN ISSUE

3

"If I can but touch his clothes I shall be whole" Mk 5:25-34

Result - Completely healed
Christ as - The Great Physician
"She felt in her body she was healed"

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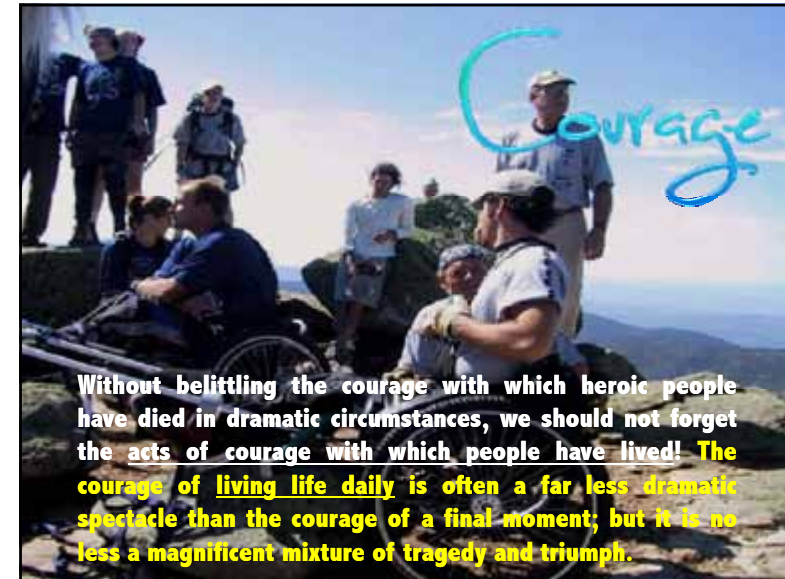
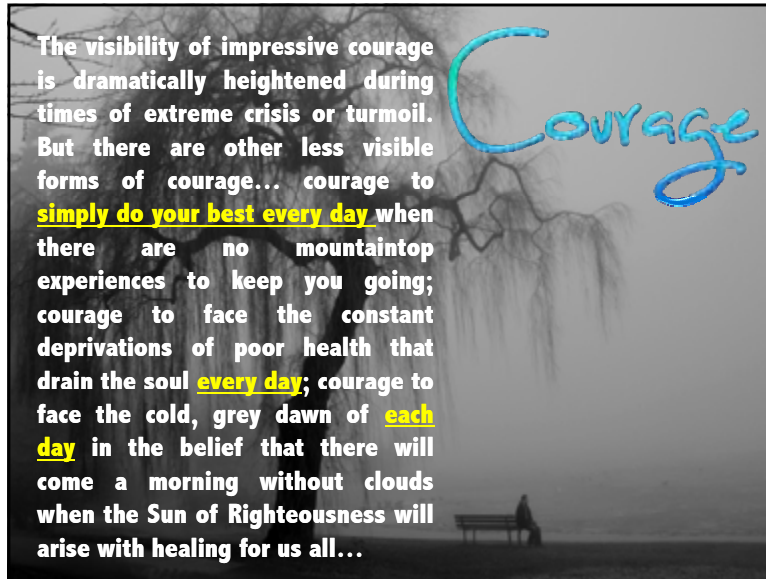
Sickness has its limits ...

It cannot cripple love.
It cannot shatter hope.
It cannot corrode faith.
It cannot destroy peace.
It cannot kill friendships.
It cannot suppress memories.
It cannot silence courage.
It cannot invade the soul.
It cannot conquer the spirit.
It cannot steal the gift of eternal life.

"It was so extreme that it was beyond our ability to endure. We even wondered if we could go on living. In fact, we still feel as if we're under a death sentence. But we suffered so that we would stop trusting ourselves and learn to trust God, who brings the dead back to life. 2Cor 1:8,9

THE PURPOSE OF EXTREME TRIAL...

"The soul would have no rainbow if the eyes had no tears"



A VERY BUSY DAY!

And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

21 And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. 22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name: and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, 23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed: and she shall live. 24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. 25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, 26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse..." Mark 5:20-26

Similarities between Jairus & the woman

She was 12yrs of age v42	Issue of blood 12yrs v25
People thronged about him v24	She came in the press v27
He fell down at Jesus feet v22	Trembling, fell down before him v33
One only daughter Lk 8:42	"Daughter..." v34
"She shall live" v23	"I shall be whole" v28
Thy daughter is dead v35	Neither could be healed Lk 8:43
Be not afraid, only believe v36	Thy faith hath made thee whole v34

Contrasts between Jairus and the woman

Outcast, barred from attending	Prestigious Ruler of Synagogue
Unnamed	Jairus - <i>"Whom God enlightens"</i>
A lonely woman	An only daughter
Would have suffered much sadness, frustration & grief	Would give much happiness & joy
Humbly approached from behind	Boldly confronted Christ
No one appealed on her behalf	<i>"My daughter"</i>
Publicly declared before all people	Tell no one what was done
Rep Gentiles - without hope	Rep Jews — deferred hope

"touch" & "clothes"

5 And whosoever toucheth his bed shall wash his clothes...
 6 ...shall wash his clothes
 7 And he that toucheth the flesh of him that hath the issue shall wash his clothes
 8 ...then he shall wash his clothes
 10 And whosoever toucheth any thing that was under him... shall wash his clothes
 11 And whosoever he toucheth that hath the issue... he shall wash his clothes
 12 And the vessel of earth, that he toucheth...
 13 he shall number to himself 7 days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes.
 19 And if a woman have an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even.
 21 And whosoever toucheth her bed shall wash his clothes.
 22 And whosoever toucheth any thing that she sat upon shall wash his clothes
 27 And whosoever toucheth those things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes (Lev 15:5-27)

The Law of defilement

Apart from leprosy, all the diseases of which they (laws of uncleanness) took account were diseases of the reproductive organs. Even the normal cycle in healthy women bore close enough an indication of the hereditary effects of Eve's and Adam's sin.

More transparent symbolism we could not hope to find... Human nature had been clearly marred at the source. For man and woman alike the counterpart of the inward malady was inbred sin. This moral malady, like the physical, secreted a defiling issue - in this case sinful thoughts, words and deeds. The law here was saying as plainly as ever it could, "That which cometh out of the man that defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of man proceeds evil thoughts..." Law & Grace (Barling) pg 87,88.

Why the Law?

The inevitable tendency of enactments affecting so many phases of common life was to bring God continually home to the consciences of faithful men. They were not allowed to forget him for a single day (Lev 15:31)

...Nothing could have more powerfully contributed to the conception of the idea of holiness, than this constant carefulness as to contracting ceremonial defilement; and nothing, as already observed could have been more calculated to keep God continually before the minds of the people. Law of Moses pg 73,74

The reality of touching Christ

It was not the healer **but the victim who was affected by the touch...** it was one whom the law was powerless to succour for whom this was done.

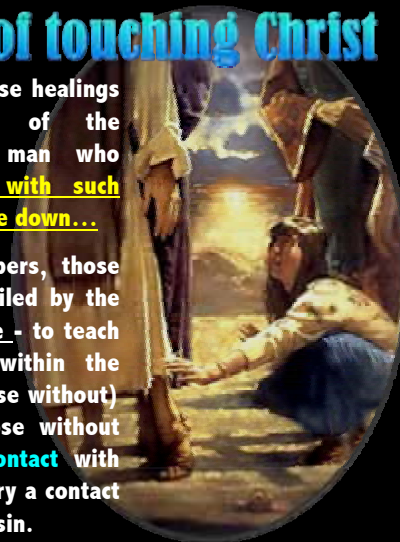
Once again therefore the contraction by him of uncleanness was palpably out of the question; **the Law simply ceased to operate in circumstances like these.**



The reality of touching Christ

The marvellousness of these healings was merely indicative of the marvellousness of the man who performed them. Faced with such unique power the Law broke down...

It forbade **contact** with lepers, those with issues and those defiled by the dead for a specific purpose - to teach allegorically that those within the camp (as distinct from those without) were sinless. Ritually those without were sin incarnate; so **contact** with them became in the allegory a contact with and a participation in sin.



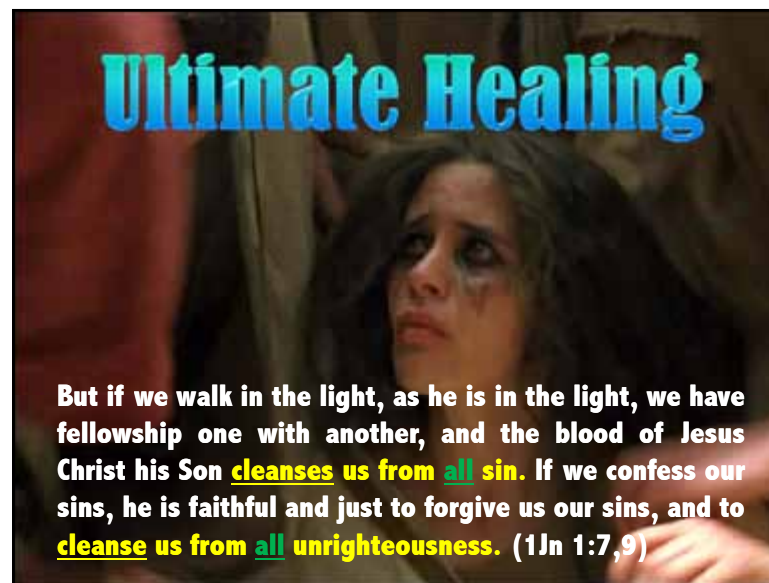
The reality of touching Christ

But paradoxically **through contact with Jesus** such people ceased immediately to be sin incarnate (personified) according to the allegorical requirements of the law. **They in fact became (ritually) sinless! And through mere contact with him! What therefore could he be but sinless himself? That was precisely what Jesus claimed to be.** Law & Grace (Barling) pg 190



Ultimate Healing

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son **cleanses us from all sin.** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (1Jn 1:7,9)



"Fringes" = tsīytsith, a tassel.
The outer garment was a quadrangular piece of cloth, each corner had a tassel attached. Each tassel had a conspicuous thread of deep blue, symbolic of the heavenly origin of the commandments.

Thread of Blue

Num 15:38,39 "Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make **tassels** (fringes KJV) on the **corners** of their garments throughout their generations, and to **put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner**. And it shall be a **tassel** for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart" ESV

Deut 22:12 Thou shalt make fringes (**tassels**) upon the **four quarters** of thy vesture, wherewith you cover yourself.

Gedil -(in the sense of twisting); thread, that is, a tassel or festoon




- The numerical value of tzitzit is 600, + there are 8 threads + 5 knots = **613 the number of commandments** found in the Torah (365 negative [days of the year] and 248 positive [parts of the human body]).
- 5 knots in each tassel = **the Torah OT**.
- 1st winding of 7 wraps and one of 8 = 15 Yod and Hey. Then 11 wraps = Vav and Hey. Then 13 wraps (Heb Echad) and is numerically equivalent to 1. The number of the windings spell out "**YHWH is one**".
- There are 5 sets x 2 knots = Moses **10 Commandments** on 2 tablets of stone.
- The total wraps (7 + 8 + 11 + 13 = 39), **the number of books in the Old Testament**

"corners" (kanaph) = extremity, edge, corner and specifically, for a bird or an army, it means 'wing.'
Since the tassels were to be on the 4 corners of the garments, **no matter which way he turned**, he would constantly be reminded of his responsibility to the Law and his relationship to God.

*Isa 11:12 He shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the **four corners** of the earth.*

The "corners"

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Kanaph - the corner

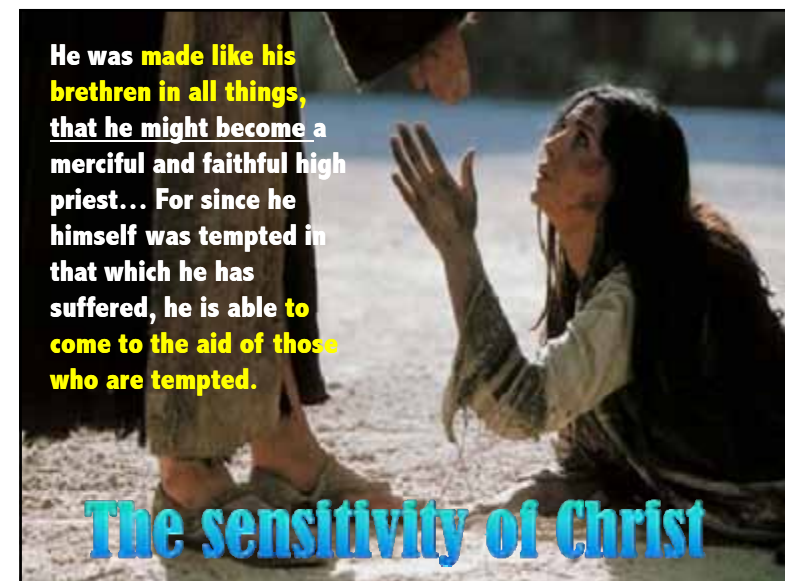
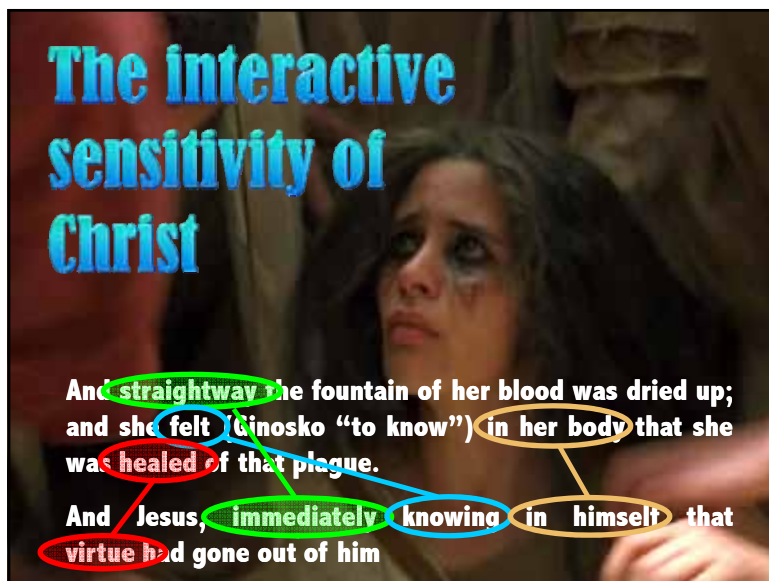
✓**GOD'S TEACHING** 1Sam15:27 As Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the **skirt** (kanaph) of his mantle, and it rent.

✓**GOD'S AUTHORITY** 1Sam 24:11 See the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the **skirt** (kanaph) of thy robe

✓**GOD'S MERCY** Ps 57:1 (When he fled from Saul in the cave). Be merciful unto me, O God: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy **wings** (kanaph) will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

✓**GOD'S PROTECTION** Ruth 3:9 I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy **skirt** (kanaph) over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

✓**GOD'S PRESENCE** Zech 8:23 It shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the **skirt** (kanaph) of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.



All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do... A high priest who is touched with the feelings of our infirmities... in all points tempted as we are... let us come boldly unto the throne of grace

The sensitivity of Christ

Who can have compassion... on them that are out of the way in that he, himself, also, is compassed with infirmity ...He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them *Heb 2:17-18, 4:13-15, 5:2, 7:25*

The sensitivity of Christ

This woman's uniqueness

"A hundred people had touched him but one had reached for him in a way others had not. It was the touch of faith... It was a touch which under the compulsion of love he was obliged to answer... People in agony are people ready to grasp" Genius of Discipleship pg 21

"Who touched me?"

"Who touched me?"

"We may wonder why Jesus did not let this poor woman escape with her precious secret untold. Matthew suggests the answer. She had said within herself, *"If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole"*. That was an error which Jesus found it imperative to correct and so her secret had to be revealed...

"Who touched me?"

The power was not in his garment but in her faith.
"Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole." Her faith was great, but her knowledge was imperfect. Without her confession and the blessing of Jesus, she would have known of his power, but not of his love."

Melva Purkis, A Life of Jesus

"Having vision isn't enough - it must be combined with venture. It's not enough just to stare up at ascending steps - we must have the courage to go up them."

Her Character...

- ✓ Undaunted Battler *"Issue 12 years" v25*
- ✓ Looked for solutions *"Spent all she had" v26*
- ✓ Worked around obstacles *"Came in the press" v27*
- ✓ Had Bible knowledge *"Touched the hem of his garment" v27*
- ✓ Developed faith in Christ *"I shall be whole" v28*
- ✓ Connected with Christ *"Felt in her body" v29*
- ✓ Courageous before Christ *"Came fearing & trembling" v33*
- ✓ Sincere Humility *"Fell down before him" v33*
- ✓ Honest Conviction *"Told him all the truth" v33*
- ✓ Commendable faith *"Thy faith hath saved thee" v34*

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